Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 00592 291119Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 PA-01

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJ: US COOPERATION / ASSISTANCE IN SELECTIVE FOREIGN DRUG

PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

REF: A) STATE 254205 (1974) B) KABUL 7610 (1974)

1. AS STATED REF B, THE NARCOTICS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO ASSESS EXISTING AFGHAN DRUB ABUSE PREVENTION RESOURCES EVEN THOUGH TYPES OF US ASSISTANCE ENVISAGED IN REF A ARE MORE GERMANE TO MORE ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED AND INTEGRATED COUNTRIES. OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT AFGHANISTAN DOES NOT FIT THE CRITERIA FOR SUCH PROGRAMS: SUMMARY OF JFSULTS OF OUR INVESTIGATION INTO GOA DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION RESOURCES AND ATTITUDES TOWARD DOMESTIC DRUG ABUSE ARE PRESENTED BELOW.

2. GOA OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE OPIUM ADDICTION AS A PROBLEM IN

ATIVELY REMOTE AND BACKWARD AREAS SUCH AS NANGARHAR AND BADAKSHAN PROVINCES WHICH ARE ALSO MAJOR CENTERS ILLICIT OPIUM

LTIVATION. LACK OF MEDICAL SERVICES, TRADIDIONAL QUASI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KABUL 00592 291119Z

MEDICAL USE OF OPIUM, AND DEARTH OF ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES TO OPIUM PRODUCTION ARE SOME OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO

INTRCTIBILITY OF ADDICTION PROBLEM. WHILE GOA IS, AS DEPT AWARE, INTERESTED IN MULTI-SECTOR ECONOMIC SURVEY AND DEVELOPMENT OF AREAS SUCH AS BADAKSHAN TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES TO POPPY CULTIVATION, THERE ARE NO EXISTING OR PLANNED DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAMS IN THESE AREAS.

- 3. GOA OFFICIALS DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THERE IS DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM IN KABUL OR PROVINCIAL CITIES. DR. MUKAMEL, DIRGEN OF HEALTH SERVICE, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY MEDICAL OFFICER, STATED THAT THERE IS NO URBAN DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM. WHILE EMBOFFS RECALL CONVERSATIONS WITH GOA OFFICIALS PRIOR TO JULY 1973 COUP IN WHICH CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED OVER POSSIBLE DRUG ABUSE AMONG CHILDREN OF AFGHAN ELITE, TOPIC DOES NOT NOW FIGURE IN CONVERSATION. POSSIBLE PARTIAL EXPLANATION MAY BE THAT AS INFLUX OF YOUNG WESTERN TOURISTS HAS SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASED, AFGHAN PERCEPTION OF THREAT FROM FOREIGN EXAMPLE MAY ALSO HAVE LESSENED.
- 4. EXCEPT IN AREAS NOTED IN PARA 2, THE GOA DOES NOT BELIEVE AFGHANISTAN HAS A DOMESTIC ABUSE PROBLEM. GIVEN THIS ATTITUDE, AND AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND NATION-BUILDING PRIORITIES, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS NO URBAN OR RURAL DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT, OR REHABILITATION PROGRAMS. WHILE WE REMAIN ALERT TO CHANGES IN THESE ATTITUDES AND INCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT SERVE TO RAISE OFFICIAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF REAL OR POTENTIAL DOMESTIC DRUG ABUSE PROBLEMS, GIVEN THE LACK OF SUCH PROGRAMS AND GOA SENSITIVITY TO BILATERAL DRUG PROGRAMS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AFGHANISTAN FALLS SUBSTANTIALLY WITHIN THE GUIDELINES FOR SUCH ASSISNCE AS SET OUZ PARA 2 REF A, NOR THAT THE TYPES OF ASSISTANCE ENVISAGED WOULD BE GENUIMXLY PRODUCTIVE AT THIS TIME.
- 5. EMBASSY'S PROGRAM FOR U.S. ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN IS CONTAINED IN KABUL 6946 (NOV 3, 1974). ELIOT

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